

THE
Merry Life and Mad Exploits
OF
Capt. JAMES HIND,
The great Robber of ENGLAND.



Newcastle: Printed by M. Angus and Son.

No Jest like a True Jest :

Being an exact

Record of Capt. JAMES HIND, &c.

CHAP. I.

*The Birth, Education of Hind, and of his being
bound an Apprentice to a Butcher, &c.*

CAPTAIN James Hind, the subject of
our ensuing discourse, was born at
Shippen Norton, in Oxfordshire: His father
having no more children than he, put him to
a school, intending to make him a scholar;
but he minded his waggish pastimes more
than his book, which his father perceived,
bound him an apprentice to a butcher, but
he having a roving pate, soon grew weary
with that business, run away from his mas-
ter, comes up to London, and there gets
acquainted with a company of idle, roaring,
young blades, who, by their evil examples,
soon made him as bad as themselves. To be
short, as they seldom abounded with money,
so they scorned to be long in want; for when
their stock grew short, they rode a robbing
for more. At last the knot was discovered,
the chief of them hanged, and Hind only
escaped with the loss of his horse; now he
sets up for himself, and is determined to fol-
low that business.

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CHAP. II.

*How Hind when on foot robbed a Gentleman,
and furnished himself with a horse.*

HIND having lost his horse was resolv'd to get another, or to follow this his trade on foot: His master's misfortunes grieved him much, he quickly cast it of his mind, and now to colour his knavery, he puts himself in the habit of a shepherd, with a pike staff upon his neck, and so travelled towards Banbury, wherein his way he spies a gentleman coming down a hill leading his horse; Hind (as he took notice of him) went whistling a common psalm tune.— When the gentleman came to the foot of the hill, where he stood whistling, the gentleman enquired of him the time of day, and he answered him very civilly; But as the gentleman was mounting his horse, he hit him with his pole such a stroke between the head and shoulders, as made him tumble to ground. Hind presently took his money, cloaths, sword, and horse, and left him his old coat and pike staff to beat on the hoof as he had done, giving him ten shillings to bear his charges; But even to this day the gentleman does not like the whistling of psalm tunes.

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CHAP. III.

*How Hind was betrayed by two whores, who
sent two Highwaymen to rob him, &c.*

HIND having good store of gold, passed away the day merrily, and then towards the night he rode to an Inn, which stood in a private road, where it seems some highwaymen did use. After he had seen his horse carefully dressed and fed, he came into the house, where were two handsome ladies by the fire, he bespoke a good supper, and invited them to it. So when supper was ready, he called for wine and made them merry. They seemed very coy to him, but he knowing their humours pulled out of his pocket a handful of gold, singing,

Maids, what are your hearts become?

Look you what is hear, &c.

And after much mirth, to bed he went, and presently came in the men who kept these whores, to whom they related all their courtesy of Hind, and that he had abundance of gold about him. They resolved to watch his going and follow him, but Hind being wakeful, was up and mounted before that they were stirring. When they heard his horseprance, they look'd out of the window, and seeing he had so good a one, were ready to fall out who should have him. I will have the horse, says one, and you shall have the

money, nay, I will have the horse says the other. At last they quickly made themselves ready and rode after him. When they had overtaken him, they asked him which way he rode? He answered them towards Cambridge: They told him they would be glad of his company. So riding in a place convenient, one of the thievesings.

Maids, what are your hearts become?

Look you what is here, &c,

Hind seeing their intent, and knowing he was betrayed, answering him in the same tune.

Rogues, you are both undone,

Look you what is here, &c.

And drawing forth his pistol shot one of their horses, who presently fell down with his master's leg under him, the other seeing this betook himself to flight, but Hind quickly overtook him, and made him deliver such money as he had, and cutting his girths and bridles, made him work enough to catch his horse again. Hind then rode to the other, who lay but at little ease; he alights and pulls the horse from off his leg and then helps him up, and takes away his money also, saying, there is but one master thief in England, and would you venture to rob him? verily, were you not of my profession, neither of you should have lived

but seeing you venture hard for it, thou deservest something: so gave him his money again, to buy him another horse, saying, disgrace not yourselves with small sum, but aim at great ones, for the least will send you to the gallows. So Hind shaking the poor thief by the hand, left him to his partner to catch the horse, and bid him farewell.

CHAP. IV.

How Hind was enchanted by an old Hagg for the space of three years.

AFTER Hind had robbed the two thieves of their money, it was his chance to ride to Hatfield, there lying at the George Inn, being then the Post-house, he merrily spent the evening with some gentlemen that were there. In the morning early, Hind calls for his horse, to be going and takes his leave of those gentlemen that were stirring. As he was riding along the road, an old ill favoured woman asked alms of him, his horse presently stood and would go no further, Sir, (said the old woman) I have staid here all this morning to speak with you, and would you have me lose my labour; speak your mind (said Hind) upon which the old woman began thus: Captain James Hind, you shall ride and go into many dangers, thereupon, by my poor skill, I have thought on a way to

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preserve you for three years ; but the time being passed, you are no more than another man, and a mischance may fall on you as well as another ; But if you be in England, come to me, and I will renew the virtue of this charm again. In saying these words she pulled out of her bosom a little box almost like a sun dial, gave it to Capt. Hind, and said to him, when you are in any distrets open this, and what way you see the star turn out go and you shall escape. So she switched him with a white rod that she had in her hand, struck the horse on the buttock, and bid him farewell. The horse presently leaped forward, and with such courage, that Capt. Hind could not turn him to give her thanks, but imagining it was her will that it should be so, rode on his way.

CHAP. V.

How Hind robbed a gentleman in the county of York, &c.

A Gentleman coming from the city of York, intending for London, by accident met with Hind, who soon made him deliver what he had, and gave him back twenty shillings to bear his charges, till his own credit could better furnish him. So the gentleman rode on his journey to the next

town, where he was well known by an Inn-keeper there. Being alighted from off his horse, he desired the host to get him something for supper, so the gentleman went to his chamber; in the mean time, in comes Hind, and asks if there was any gentlemen going to London. The host made answer that there was but one gentleman, and would be glad of good company; So Hind went up to the gentleman, and saluted him. The gentleman said, Sir, sit down, and I will tell you how I was robbed to day. I durst have sworn you have been the man, but I see your hair is short & his was long. Sir, said Hind, do you know his horse, yes very well said the gentleman; to satisfy you, said he, you shall see mine. So Hind went down, fetched his horse out of the stable, & asked the gentleman if that was the horse; He answered that is the horse. Then said Hind, I cannot stay with you to night, if you know my horse better than myself. So he immediately bid him good night.

CHAP. VI.

How Hind robbed two gentlemen's servants of two hundred pounds, &c.

HIND being informed of a purchase, as he was riding, espied some gentlemen drinking at an alehouse on horseback, having sent their servants before. Hind passed

by them, but riding at a great rate, he quickly overtook the gentlemen's servants who rode but easily. Hind by their portmanteaus, supposed there was money in them, therefore bid them deliver, or he would be their deaths. They not being used to fight, yielded unto him. He thinking their delays would bring dangers with his dagger knife cut open their portmanteaus, took out the money, and having tied the bags together, laid them before him, and rode full speed away. One of the servants rode to acquaint their masters, who presently pursued him. Hind meeting with a person, said to him, Sir I am like to be robbed, you must stand to it now, for your own good as well as mine. They would have this money from me which you see; come Sir, be of good cheer! one honest man will scarce ten thieves; you shall have one of my pistols. So he gives the person a pistol ready cock'd and charged, and bid him fire at the first that came up, while I, said he, ride to the next village, and raise the country to assist us.

The person being not valiant, having taken a cup too much at a wedding, rode up boldly to the gentlemen, and fired his pistol at them, being so far off did no execution. So advancing nearer, he flung his pistol at

one of their heads, and had like to have knocked him off his horse. The gentlemen seized on him, and the parson cries out spare my life and you shall have all my money. No Sirrah ! said the gentlemen we will have you hanged : What ! a parson, and rob on the highway ! They presently hauled him to the next justice of the Peace, which was very near. When they came before the Justice, they told him we have been robbed of 200l. and this person is one of the thieves. The Justice marvelled that such an apparent testimony should come against the person of the parish. The parson by this time being come to himself, desired leave of the Justice to speak in his own defence, which being granted, he said to the Justice, Sir, you have known me these thirty years, and no man can say I wronged him of a penny, much less this which is laid to my charge. I shall tell you Sir, as much as I know of the matter : As I was riding on my way home, I met with a man who said, I suppose, two bags of money before him. He told me that thieves were in pursuit of him, and desired me to help him, saying, I need not fear, for one honest man will beat ten thieves, so he gave me a pistol charged, primed and cocked, and bid me fire at the first that

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came, while he raised the country to our assistance.

When these gentlemen came down the hill, I rode up to them, and fired his pistol at one of them, when I had done so, I flung it at this gentleman's head, thinking they had been all thieves, this Sir, is all I know of the matter.

The Justice laughed to see the parson of the parish apprehended for a highwayman, but he gave his word for his appearance at the next assizes, who, when he was brought before the bench, was cleared, but he made a vow never to fire a pistol again.

CHAP. VII.

How Hind robbed a gentleman of thirty pounds that would give twenty to see him.

HIND overtook a gentleman as he rode on the highway, and they fell into discourse. So the gentleman was saying he would really give twenty pounds to see Hind, but as they were riding the gentleman fancied his horse. Sir, said the gentleman, what money shall I give you to exchange horses with me, forty pounds said he. I will give you thirty in gold, said the gentleman. Hind said, Sir, ride him, so the gentleman gave him thirty pounds and his own horse, but as he rode along, there was a ditch, Sir, said Hind, leap him over

this ditch, I cannot said the gentleman. Hind desired the gentleman to alight, so he got his own horse and leaped over the ditch, and when he was on the other side, he said, Sir, you would give twenty pounds to see Hind and now you have seen him; the other ten is for riding his horse. So now I think you have seen enough of him. Farewell.

CHAP. VIII.

How Hind robbed a country parson on the road between Coventry and London.

A Parson riding from Coventry towards London, by petty thieves was robbed of his silver, but having forty pounds of gold about him, resolved to go on his journey, and as he rode, Hind overtook him and asked the parson which way he travelled? The parson said that he intended for London, but said he, I was almost prevented, for to day I was robbed of five pounds in silver, and the knaves left me but five shillings to bear my charges. Sir, said Hind, I was robbed of a little money myself to day too, a man as good let them have it quietly, as endanger his life, but I was cunning enough to hide my gold in my boot before hand. Nay, I believe said the parson, mine is as safe, for I have quilted it in the collar of my doublet.

Hind was not a little glad when he knew where his gold lay; but being near the Inn, they supped together, and afterwards went to their respective apartments, and so to bed.

In the morning the parson called Hind up, and told him he would be glad of his company, and after breakfast they rode together. Hind asked the parson, if he could guess what trade he was of? No said the parson. Then said he, I am a cutter of cloth, for I must cut the collar of your doublet off before I shall come to your money. Having so done, he left the parson forty pounds lighter then he found him.

CHAP. IX.

How Hind served two bailiffs, and a covetous old griping Usurer.

HIND riding through a little town in Warwickshire, saw a tumult in the street, so he rode up to know the occasion, one told him that an honest poor Innkeeper was arrested for twenty pounds, and that the man was undone if he had not some speedy relief. Hind goes to the man, asked him if he could give any security if he should pay the money for him; The poor man being much overjoyed at this, told him that he would make over all that he

had for his security, so Hind sent for one to make over the Innkeeper's goods to himself, which being done they departed. Hind was not unmindful to enquire the way the Usurer was to go; he went after him, and overtook him in a very convenient place. Friend said he, I lent you twenty pounds even now, but I must needs have it again. The Usurer said you paid me the sum on bond. Sir, said Hind, it is no time to dispute it now, so took from the old Usurer his twenty pounds and twenty pounds more that he had got by usury. He rode back into the Inn, and gave the Innkeeper his writing again, and five pounds, telling him, that he had good luck by lending to honest men. The Usurer came forwards to the innkeeper, thinking to get some money of him, but the innkeeper beat him almost to death, saying, you rogue, I am engaged in all that I have for the payment of the money, and if you be robbed must I pay you again? I will, I will. So this was all the Usurer could get.

CHAP. X.

How Hind robbed a gentleman at Chalkhill, in Buckinghamshire.

AFTER a day or two, Hind rode into Buckinghamshire, where he was ac-

acquainted with many gentlemen, passing
 away his time until an opportunity offered.
 It was his chance then to ride to Chalk-hill
 where he espied a little before him a Cap-
 tain and his servant, who were just alight-
 ed to walk down the hill. The Captain
 gave his horse to his man, and bid him stay
 at the foot of the hill when he came down ;
 he having occasion to untruss a point, sat
 under a little hedge. Hind taking an op-
 portunity rode slow until he came near the
 Captain, and seeing he had good cloaths,
 he mended his pace and immediately bid
 him deliver. The Captain was much
 amazed at this sudden occasion of Hind,
 who all this time held a pistol at his breast,
 saying dispatch, for it is not my custom to
 stand maundering, I only demand, and
 look you make no longer stay. The Cap-
 tain desiring of him to forbear until he was
 trussed up. Hind giving him so much
 leave, said, your money, Sir. The Captain
 seeing it was not to be helped by delaying
 delivered to him thirty pieces of gold.
 Hind said, Sir, I take this in part ; and so
 rode down the hill, where the Captain's
 servant was staying with his horse, Hind
 said, Sirrah, is that your master coming
 down the hill, he answered him, Yes, Sir ;
 then said Hind, I seldom take any thing

from the master, but I give the servant something. So giving him ten shillings, here is something for thee, said he, to drink my health, and tell thy master that my name is Hind.

CHAP. XI.

How Hind robbed a gentleman of a hundred and fifty pounds, &c.

HIND travelling up and down the country, at length met with a bold, lusty young fellow, whom he formerly had known; and asking him several questions, amongst the rest he said, Jack, if you'll live with me, you shall have money at command, or any thing you want. Jack knowing partly his trade gave consent. Hind presently bought a good horse for his man, and furnished him with a sword and small pistols. Being fitted they travelled towards Nottingham, and on the road happened to come to an inn, where a gentleman and his servant were just alighted. Hind rides to the stable door, where the hostler was taking of the gentleman's portmanteau. The hostler says, 'Tis but a little portmanteau, but 'tis very heavy. Hind well espying it, said to his man Jack, Enquire cunningly which way this gentleman travels to-morrow morning. So Hind went into

the house, and when supper was ready the gentleman and he supped together; and after the table was drawn, the two servants were ordered to get theirs. Hind's man gives the gentleman's servant a pint of sack, and after supper some Spanish tobacco. Now they began to be greatly acquainted, so they both went together to the stable to see their horses dressed. Jack asks the gentleman's servant, which way they travel in the morning. He told him towards London. My master, says Jack, rides that way too, I think.

Now Jack having as much as he desired, went to see what his master wanted. Hind bids him get his slippers ready, and pull off his boots; which being done he takes leave of the gentleman, and goes to his apartment.

When he came into the chamber, he asks his man which way they went. Jack tells him: early in the morning Hind mounts his horse, and sets forward on his way. The gentleman soon after arose, and ordered breakfast to be made ready; after that was over, he proceeded on his journey, and riding near to a woodside, Hind rides up to the gentleman, and with his whip flapped him on the head, saying, have I nothing to do but wait on you Sir? Jack

takes off the portmanteau saying, 'tis very heavy master. Sir said Hind to the gentleman, you are ill-beloved in the country that you could not get gold for silver. Jack rides back to the gentleman's servant, and strikes him over the head saying Sirrah ! must I spoil my horses to carry your portmanteau, you rogue ! So Hind leaving the gentleman and his man looking upon one another, almost amazed at this sudden accident, spared no horse flesh till they had a convenient place, where it was hard for any to follow them, and knowing themselves to be safe from danger, they looked into the portmanteau, where they found one hundred and fifty pounds ; this they put by as a good morning's work.

CHAP. XII.

How Hind served a committee man, who disguised himself for fear of being robbed.

A committee man having occasion to travel towards London, to buy several commodities, and hearing there was robbing on the road, fitted himself with an old grey coat, wore out at the elbows, and an old mare, with ropes instead of stirrups hung at the saddle, which was not worth threepence, and a bridle about the same value. Now rides he on merrily thinking

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very no highwaymen would set on him, but
 gen- money ill got will be ill spent ; for he chan-
 untry- ced to meet with Hind, who asked what
 silver he was. He answered that he was an old
 ser- man going to seek relief among his friends.
 ying Hind gives him a piece of gold, and bids
 carry him drink his health, and be merry at his
 Hind inn. The old miser thinking to please
 look- Hind coined two or three great oaths pre-
 ed at- sently, and said he would be drunk with
 flesh drinking his health. Hind parted from
 ere it him, and the old man went to his inn, set
 now- up his mare, and called for a pint of such.
 they After the first glass was done, he began
 they to say, that he escaped the greatest danger
 ; this that ever he was in ; for said he I was met
 rk. with by Hind, who instead of robbing me,
 gave me a piece of gold to drink his health ;
 but I'll see him hang'd before I'll spend
 one penny for his sake. Hang him a ro-
 gue ! he robs all honest men, only poor
 travellers he lets them go. I declare I
 would have given ten pounds to have been
 rid of his company, when I first met with
 him. So after a short supper, he went to
 bed. Presently after Hind came into the
 same inn, he using to lodge as a traveller
 not known. The landlord told him in
 what fear an old committee man was that
 day, having met with Hind, who gave

him a piece of gold, and bid him drink his health; but he said he'd see him hang'd first, and called him a rogue a thousand times. Hind went to bed, and let the old man travel first in the morning, and about an hour after, Hind rode after him. When he had overtaken him, he asked the old man if he had drank his health, Sir, said he I never was so drunk in all my life, as I was last night, for I drank the king's health, the queen's health, the prince's health &c. and your good health ten times over. Hind said to him, friend, I have found you in many lies, and now I will make you call me rogue for something. So Hind made him untie his greasy knapsack, and in a dirty bladder he found fifty pounds in gold and his own piece besides.

The old committee man was sadly dash'd to see his money gone, and how to proceed on his journey, he did not know; however to cheer up his heart, he resolv'd to borrow so much money of the state before he went another journey. Captain Hind made him the following compliment: The sooner you succeed the better for me, if it be my good fortune to meet with you again, so fare you well.

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CHAP. XIII.

How Hind robbed a gentleman in Hide Park, of a bag of money.

HIND being well mounted, went one evening into Hide Park, to see some sport, and riding by a gentleman's coach, espied a bag of money, upon which Hind used some discourse about the race that was going to be run, but the race beginning, the gentleman caused his coach to stand still; that he might the easier judge which of the horses ran best. Hind's head not being sole, rode close to the coach side, took the bag of money into his hands and rode away with it. The gentleman presently missing his bag of money, cries out, stop him; I am robb'd. Many rode after him, especially the Captain whom he robbed at Chalk-hill, who pursued him very hard. Hind riding by St. James' said to the soldiers, I have won the wager; but holding of the bag fast his cloak fell off, which he left for them that came next; when he came to his companions, he said, I never earned an hundred pounds so dear in all my life.

CHAP. XIV.

How Hind put a trick upon a Dutch mountebank in Holland.

HIND having committed so many robberies, he was constrained to leave England and to go for Holland; but being in a strange country, and not having there an opportunity to rob on the highway, as he did in England, fell into want of money to support him; so he hearing of a rich mountebank, whose name was Henry van Vildas, who was somewhat fortunate in cures, therefore by every one desired;

This mountebank, having been visiting several of his sick patients, in divers parts of the city, received great sums of money for his particular cures, was followed by Hind, and as he passed through a bye street, he made a very great haste to him and salutes him in a most kind and affectionate manner thus, Sir. I have heard much of your renown in curing of many diseases, not far from this place, if you please to go along with me to my house, my wife is very much troubled with the flux in her belly these fourteen days, and you by your experience, may do her good if you please to give her a visit. I humbly request of you to go

along with me, and what satisfaction you desire, I will willingly give you.

This bell sounded well in his ears; he goes along with Hind to his lodging, and by the way gives Hind every comfortable expression, saying, God forbid I should neglect that little skill I have to do your wife good. Upon the changing of these compliments, Hind leads him from one street to another, until at last he brought the doctor into his lodging, which was so contrived, that it stood at some little distance from any other house, so that having locked the door upon the doctor, he takes in one hand a pistol, and in the other a great empty purse, looking upon the mountebank with an angry countenance said, Sir, here is my wife, meaning the empty purse, she hath been a long time troubled with the flux in her belly, and you are the only man that can remedy it. The doctor seeing himself cunningly and suddenly surprized, cried out but was presently silenced by the sight of a pistol which he presented, and was very willing to let open his own purse to cure Hind's which had the flux; but, according to his wonted liberality, made him a present of part of his own money again, and promised to convoy him home to his own lodgings, but with his pistol cocked for fear of an outcry: and in the middle of the way left him to find out this own chamber himself. Hind finding that this country was not fit for his purpose, resolved to retire as soon as an opportunity offered, and therefore made all things ready for a voyage.

CHAP. XI.

HIND being soon weary of staying long in a place, shipped himself for the kingdom of Scotland. When he was landed, he went and offered his service to the king, who being informed who he was, had some discourse with him, and commended him to the Duke of Buckingham then present, to ride in his troop, because his own life guards were full. Soon after he came over with the same troops to England, was in the engagement at Warrington and Worcester, and staid until the King was fled. Hind seeing the gates full of dying persons, leaped over the wall on foot and lay three days and nights under bushes and hedges, before he could find an opportunity to make his escape,

and then came on foot to London where he lodged five weeks secure.

November the 6th, 1651, a discovery was made of Capt. James Hind at one Denzies, a barber over against St Dunstan's church in Fleet-street, who went by the name of Brown. This being whispered to a certain gentleman who belonged to the Right Hon. Mr Speaker, he ordered proper officers to secure him, who coming to his chamber, with their pistols cocked, they immediately apprehended him, and brought him to Mr Speaker's house in Chancery-lane, and so secured him for that night. The next day, by an order from the council of state the said Captain Hind was brought to Whitehall, and was examined before a committee concerning his late engagement with Charles Steward, and whither he accompanied the Scots King. To which he answered that he never saw the king since the fight at Worcester; neither knew of his getting the field, but was glad to hear that he had made so happy an escape. After some time spent about this examination, 'twas ordered he should be sent prisoner to the guard-house till the next day, by special orders from the council of state, he was brought from thence in a coach, with iron bolts on his legs. Captain Compton, and two messengers belonging to the state, guarded him, and about two o'clock in the afternoon he was closely confined in Newgate, where he lay till the next sessions, in order to take his trial.

CHAP. XVI.

Trial of Capt. James Hind, who was executed at Worcester, for treason.

ON Friday the 13th day of Dec. 1651. Capt. James Hind was brought to the Sessions-house, in the old Bailey, where divers questions were proposed to him concerning his former life and conversation. He answered that he had confessed before the council of state, he acknowledged to that court, professing his innocency in every matter of fact, or crime since 1649. within any of the

parliament's dominions. So he was dismissed from the place. And on Monday the first of March 1652, he was carried in a coach from Newgate to Reading, where Wednesday following he was arraigned before Judge Watherton, for killing his companion at Knowl. The act of oblivion being sent acquitted all former offences, only the indictment of treason against the state, for which he was carried to Worcester and there drawn, hanged and quartered, on Friday Sept. 24, 1652.

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